

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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TAGS: PFOR, PORG, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIANS ATTEND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEETING IN CUBA

BEGIN SUMMARY: TWO HAITIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THIS WEEK BROKE A 15 YEAR BOYCOTT OF CASTRO TERRITORY WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN HAVANA TO ATTEND A SESSION OF THE ECOSOC-SPONSORED CARIBBEAN COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. HAITI'S ATTENDANCE IMPLIES NO RELAXATION IN THIS GOVERNMENT'S THOROUGH DISTRUST OF CASTRO OR IN ITS FEAR OF ANY FORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNIST CUBA; RATHER, THE DECISION TO GO TO HAVANA REFLECTS PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE A PRAGMATIC POLICY OF "OPENING" TO HAITI'S CARIBBEAN NEIGHBORS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOR SOME WEEKS THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNDECIDED ABOUT WHETHER TO ATTEND THE CCCD MEETING IN HAVANA, AND ONLY ON THE EVE OF THE SESSION DID PRESIDENT DUVALIER DECIDE TO SEND THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, GERARD DORCELY, AND THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANISTIC SCIENCES, PIERRE LOUIS SALOMON. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS ANNOUNCED THEIR DEPARTURE ON A "SPECIAL MISSION," IT DID NOT DIVULGE THEIR DESTINATION, AND THE FIRST NEWS OF GOVERNMENT

ATTENDANCE CAME IN A DELICATELY WORDED NOUVELLISTE COMMENTARY WHICH PROTESTED AT EXCESSIVE LENGTH THAT "NOTHING COULD BE MORE NATURAL" THAN HAITI'S ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING. THE ARTICLE DECLARED THAT THE

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HAITIAN PRESENCE HAD NO SIGNIFICANCE FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT

HINTED THAT EVENTUAL NON-OFFICIAL CONTACTS MIGHT OCCUR NATURALLY WITH  
IN  
THE EVOLVING FRAMEWORK OF CLOSER HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED  
AT THE LAST OAS MEETING.

2. THE GOVERNMENT'S INDECISION ABOUT GOING TO HAVANA AROSE FROM  
TWO CONFLICTING OBJECTIVES -- TO REMAIN ALOOF IN EVERY WAY FROM THIS  
DISTRUSTED COMMUNIST NEIGHBOR, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN CARIBBEAN  
REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS WHICH MIGHT EVENTUALLY CONFER BENEFITS ON HAITI

CONSERVATIVES IN THE GOVERNMENT--AMONG THEM FOREIGN MINISTER BRUTUS--  
SEE NO ADVANTAGE WHATSOEVER IN SOFTENING HAITI'S POLITICAL AND  
ECONOMIC  
BOYCOTT OF CASTRO'S CUBA. TO THEM, CASTRO CAN NEVER BE TRUSTED (VIDE  
CONTINUED CUBA'S DAILY BROADCASTING OF SUBVERSIVE CREOLE LANGUAGE  
PROGRAMS) AND WHATEVER OTHER OAS MEMBERS MIGHT NOW DO BY WAY OF  
RESUMING BILATERAL TIES, HAITI SHOULD REMAIN ALOOF AND ON GUARD.

3. OTHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT--NOTABLY DORCELY HIMSELF--BELIEVE  
THAT HAITI NOW SHOULD DISPLAY GREATER SELF-CONFIDENCE AND  
ASSERTIVENESS  
IN BROADENING ECONOMIC AND COMMERICAL RELATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF  
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY. THEY REGRET THE SETBACK TO HAITI'S  
"OPENING" TOWARD THE REGION CAUSED BY COMMERCE MINISTER FOURCAND'S  
OUSTER EARLY IN 1975, AND HAVE BEEN SEEKING WAYS TO KEEP HAITI IN  
THE PICTURE. HAITI'S PRESENCE AT HAVANA WOULD CLEARLY FIT THIS  
OBJECTIVE.

4. PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S DECISION TO SEND DORCELY AND SALOMON, WHO  
BOTH ENJOY HIS SPECIAL CONFIDENCE, AND ARE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION  
ON GOVERNMENT REFORMS, THUS REPRESENTS A VICTORY OF HIS CAUTIOUS  
AND PRAGMATIC POLICY OVER THE FORCES OF IMMOBILISM, ISOLATIONISM,  
AND SUSPICIOUSNESS WHICH CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE EVERY MAJOR POLICY  
DECISION TAKEN HERE IN DOMESTIC AS WELL AS EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.  
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